

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (original) A method of determining, from transform coded data, the number of bits required to represent an output value which would be obtained as a result of an inverse transform being performed on said transform coded data, said method comprising the steps of obtaining a sum of coefficient values within said transform coded data (204) and comparing this sum to a pre-determined threshold value (206).
2. (original) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said transform coded data is discrete cosine transform (DCT) coded data
3. (currently amended) A method as claimed in ~~any preceding~~  
~~claim~~claim 1 wherein said transform coded data is MPEG-1 or MPEG-2 encoded video data.
4. (currently amended) A method as claimed in ~~any preceding~~  
~~claim~~claim 1 wherein said method is used to determine whether said output values can be represented in eight bits, or require nine bit representation.

5. (currently amended) A method as claimed in ~~any preceding~~  
~~claim~~claim 1 wherein said method includes the further step of:  
deciding as a consequence of said comparison which inverse  
transform implementation, out of a number of pre-determined  
implementations, should be performed when decoding said transform  
coded data (208,210).

6. (original) A method as claimed in claim 5 wherein at least one  
of said inverse transform implementations includes instructions for  
handling of multiple eight bit values in longer words.

7. (currently amended) A method as claimed in ~~any preceding~~  
~~claim~~claim 1 wherein the coefficient values are bi-polar, and said  
sum is of the absolute values of the coefficients.

8. (currently amended) A method as claimed in ~~any preceding~~  
~~claim~~claim 1 wherein the transform coded data consists of an 8x8  
discrete cosine transform.

9. (original) A method as claimed in claim 8 wherein said pre-  
determined threshold value is in the range 500 to 530.

10. (original) Apparatus for determining, from transform coded data, the number of bits required to represent an output value which would be obtained as a result of an inverse transform being performed on said transform coded data, said apparatus comprising means for obtaining a sum of coefficient values within said transform coded data and means for comparing this sum to a pre-determined threshold value.

11. (original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 10 wherein said transform coded data is discrete cosine transform (DCT) coded data.

12. (currently amended) Apparatus as claimed in claim ~~10 or 11~~ wherein said transform coded data is MPEG-1 or MPEG-2 encoded video data.

13. (currently amended) Apparatus as claimed in ~~any of claims 10 to 12~~ claim 10 wherein said apparatus is suitable for determining whether said output values can be represented in eight bits, or require nine bit representation.

14. (currently amended) Apparatus as claimed in ~~any of claims 10 to 13~~ claim 10 wherein there is further provided means for deciding as a consequence of said comparison which inverse transform

implementation, out of a number of pre-determined implementations, should be performed when decoding said transform coded data.

15. (original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 14 wherein at least one of said inverse transform implementations includes instructions for handling of multiple eight bit values in longer words.

16. (currently amended) Apparatus as claimed in ~~any of claims 10 to 15~~claim 10 wherein the coefficient values are bi-polar, and said sum is of the absolute values of the coefficients.

17. (currently amended) Apparatus as claimed in ~~any of claims 10 to 16~~claim 10 wherein the transform coded data consists of an 8x8 discrete cosine transform.

18. (original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 17 wherein said pre-determined threshold value is in the range 500 to 530.

19. (currently amended) A record carrier wherein are recorded program instructions for causing a programmable processor to perform the steps of the method as claimed in ~~claims 1-9 or to implement an apparatus having the features claimed in any of claims 10 to 18~~claim 1.